

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-01 /038 W

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R 270856Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3838

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7229

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 1165W: GDS

TAGSC PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE MEMORIAL DAY SPEECH

1. AT MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE MAY 26 AT AMERICAN CEMETERY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR READ SPEECH IN BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CASTING--FOR THE OCCASION--RATHER TASTELESS ASPERSIONS ON ACTIONS OF AMERICANS SINCE WORLD WAR II. IN CONTESTING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM, HE SAID, U.S. HAD SELF-RIGHTEOUSLY CONFRONTED THIRD WORLD LEADING ULTIMATELY TO "DENOUEMENT" IN INDOCHINA AND INCREASING ISOLATION OF US. US COULD REGAIN MORAL AUTHORITY BY RECOGNIZING PRINCIPLE OF SELF-RELIANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION. SPEECH BEING SENT SEPTEL.

2. AFTER CEREMONY COMPLETED, AMBASSADOR MADE POINT OF TELLING MELCHOR HE THOUGHT SPEECH WAS IN PARTICULARLY BAD TASTE. MELCHOR CLAIMED SPEECH HAS SIMPLY BEEN HANDED TO HIM TO READ PUBLICLY BECAUSE PRESIDENT NOT AVAILABLE. HE REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT SPEECH HAD BEEN PREPARED BY PRESIDENT'S WRITERS FOR PRESIDENT.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MELCHOR DISCLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPEECH, WE BELIEVE HE WAS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH
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CONTENTS BEFORE MEMORIAL DAY. SHOULD HE HAVE CHOSEN TO

DO SO, HE COULD HAVE ALTERED OR FUZZED MESSAGE. BY CHOOSING, INSTEAD, TO READ MESSAGE WITHOUT CHANGE, HE SET PRECEDENT OF INTRODUCING CONTENTIOUS ISSUE INTO CEREMONIES ANDS DSMAYED AUDIENCE GATHERED TO HONOR BOTH FILIPINOS AND AMERICANS.

4. WE ASSUME SPEECH'S IDENTIFICATION OF PHILIPPINES WITH THIRD WORLD AND CHASTISEMENT OF AMERICAN FRIENDS INTENDED AS FURTHER WINDOW DRESSING FOR MARCOS' UPCOMING PEKING TRIP.
PURNELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, WORLD WAR II, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA07229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-0882
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750517/aaaaapbi.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHILIPPINE MEMORIAL DAY SPEECH
TAGS: PFOR, US, RP, (MELCHOR, ALEJANDRO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006